

REMARKS

The final Office action mailed on 8 April 2005 (Paper No. 04052005) has been carefully considered. Allowance of claims 23 thru 27 as indicated on page 9 of the Office action is appreciated.

Claims 13, 18, 23, 42 and 47 are being amended. Thus, claims 1 thru 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23 thru 27 and 30 thru 47 are pending in the application.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments presented do not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search by the Examiner. Specifically, each of the amendments consists of adding to the respective claims the recitation of a sleeve comprising an outer surface and an eccentric bore surrounded by the outer surface for receiving the shear pin, the eccentric bore being parallel to and not coaxial with the outer surface of the sleeve. The latter recitation is identical to the recitation contained in the last paragraph of claim 23, as previously presented. Thus, the recitation in question was previously searched and considered by the Examiner so that it does not present any new issues requiring further consideration and/or search by the Examiner. Accordingly, this Amendment After Final should be entered.

In the fifth paragraph on page 2 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 42 thru 46 under 35 U.S.C. §102 for alleged anticipation by Dean *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,570,658. In the first complete paragraph on page 4 of the Office action, the Examiner

rejected claims 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §103 for alleged unpatentability over Dean *et al.* '658.

As mentioned above, independent claims 13, 18, 42 and 47 are being amended to include the recitation of the sleeve as comprising an outer surface and an eccentric bore surrounded by the outer surface for receiving the shear pin, the eccentric bore being parallel to and not coaxial with the outer surface of the sleeve. As also stated above, this is a recitation identical to the recitation contained in the last paragraph of claim 23.

Furthermore, the latter recitation was added to independent claim 23 in a previous Amendment, and as a result of the addition of that recitation to independent claim 23, the Examiner has now allowed independent claim 23 and associated dependent claims 24 thru 27. Thus, the Examiner found the latter recitation to recite a feature of the invention distinguishable over the prior art.

Therefore, the addition of the recitation to independent claims 13, 18, 42 and 47 should now render those claims allowable over the prior art. That is to say, the prior art does not disclose or suggest the feature of the invention represented by the recitation now added to independent claims 13, 18, 42 and 47.

Finally, claim 23 is being amended to insert a period at the end of that claim.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and early issuance thereof is solicited. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

No fee is incurred by this Amendment After Final.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. E. Bushnell", is written over a horizontal line.

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